

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing of claims in the application.

Claims 1 – 5(Cancelled)

6. (Previously presented) A printer of the type which selectively deposits a color marking material onto a receiver to form an image on the receiver, the printer being adapted to sense and update data uniquely associated with a cleaning fluid consumable loaded into the printer, comprising:

(a) a transceiver for transmitting a first electromagnetic field and for sensing a second electromagnetic field, the first electromagnetic field containing data for writing into a memory associated with the cleaning consumable;

(b) a transponder coupled to said cleaning fluid consumable, said transponder adapted to receive the first electromagnetic field and generate the second electromagnetic field in response to the first electromagnetic field received thereby, the transponder adapted to receive energy from the first electromagnetic field that is generated by the transceiver and the energy comprising the only energy for powering the transponder and the transponder being adapted to read data from the memory and write updated data to the memory in accordance with an instruction code from the transceiver in the first electromagnetic field.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously presented) A printer of the type which selectively deposits a color marking material onto a receiver to form an image on the receiver, the printer being adapted to sense data uniquely associated with a printer consumable to be loaded into the printer, comprising:

(a) a transceiver for transmitting a first electromagnetic field and for sensing a second electromagnetic field;

(b) a first transponder including a first memory coupled to a first consumable used by the printer; and

(c) a second transponder including a second memory coupled to a second consumable used by the printer, each of said first and second memories having data stored therein indicative of type of consumable, so that a selected one of either of said transponders is capable of receiving the first electromagnetic field and

generating a second electromagnetic field in response to the first electromagnetic field received thereby, the second electromagnetic field being sensed by said transceiver and characteristic of the data stored in said memory, the data being associated with said selected transponder generating the second electromagnetic field; and

wherein the transceiver is adapted to alternately communicate with the first and second transponders.

9. (Original) The printer of claim 8, wherein said first memory is coupled to a first consumable that is a receiver media consumable and wherein said second memory is coupled to a second consumable that is an ink consumable.

10. (Original) The printer of claim 8, wherein said first memory is coupled to a first consumable that is a printhead consumable and wherein said second memory is coupled to a second consumable that is an ink consumable.

11. (Original) The printer of claim 8, wherein said first memory is coupled to a first consumable that is an ink consumable and wherein said second memory is coupled to a second consumable that is a cleaning fluid consumable.

12. (Original) The printer of claim 8, wherein said first memory is coupled to a first consumable that is a print head consumable and wherein said second memory is coupled to a second consumable that is a cleaning fluid consumable.

13. (Original) The printer of claim 8, further comprising a third transponder including a third memory coupled to a third consumable, said third memory having data stored therein indicative of type of consumable.

14. (Original) The printer of claim 13, wherein said first memory is coupled to a first consumable that is a receiver media consumable, wherein said second memory is coupled to a second consumable that is a print head consumable and wherein said third memory is coupled to a third consumable that is a cleaning fluid consumable.

15. (Original) The printer of claim 13, wherein said first memory is coupled to a first consumable that is a printhead consumable, wherein said second memory is coupled to a second consumable that is an ink consumable and wherein said third memory is coupled to a third consumable that is a cleaning fluid consumable.

16. (Original) The printer of claim 13, wherein the first memory is coupled to a first consumable that is a printhead consumable, wherein the second memory is coupled to a second consumable that is an ink consumable and wherein the third memory is coupled to a third consumable that is a receiver media consumable.

17. (Previously presented) The printer of claim 13, further comprising a fourth transponder including a fourth memory coupled to a fourth consumable, said fourth memory having data stored therein indicative of type of consumable.

18. (Original) The printer of claim 17, wherein said first memory is coupled to a first consumable that is a printhead consumable, wherein said second memory is coupled to a second consumable that is an ink consumable, wherein said third memory is coupled to a third consumable that is a receiver media consumable and wherein said fourth memory is coupled to a fourth consumable that is a cleaning fluid consumable.

Claims 19 - 25 (Cancelled)

26. (Previously presented) In a printer which operates to selectively deposit a color marking material onto a receiver to form an image on the receiver, a method of sensing data uniquely associated with a printer consumable loaded into the printer, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a transceiver for transmitting a first electromagnetic field and for sensing a second electromagnetic field;

(b) providing a first transponder including a first memory coupled to a first consumable; and

(c) providing a second transponder including a second memory coupled to a second consumable, each of the first and second memories having data stored therein indicative of type of consumable, the transceiver polling the respective transponders so that each of the transponders is responsive to a respective first electromagnetic field emitted by the transceiver and each transponder generates a second electromagnetic field in response to the respective first electromagnetic field received thereby, the second electromagnetic field being sensed by the transceiver and characteristic of the data stored in the respective memory, the data being associated with the selected transponder generating the second electromagnetic field.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the step of providing a first transponder comprises the step of providing a first transponder including a first memory coupled to a first consumable that is a receiver media consumable and wherein the step of providing a second transponder comprises the step of providing a second transponder including a second memory coupled to a second consumable that is an ink consumable.

28. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein the step of providing a first transponder comprises the step of providing a first transponder including a first memory coupled to a first consumable that is a printhead consumable and wherein the step of providing a second transponder comprises the step of providing a second transponder including a second memory coupled to a second consumable that is an ink consumable.

29. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein the step of providing a first transponder comprises the step of providing a first transponder including a first memory coupled to a first consumable that is an ink consumable and wherein the step of providing a second transponder comprises the step of providing a second transponder including a second memory coupled to a second consumable that is cleaning fluid consumable.

30. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein the step of providing a first transponder comprises the step of providing a first transponder including a first memory coupled to a first consumable that is a print head consumable and wherein the step of providing a second transponder comprises the step of providing a second transponder including a second memory coupled to a second consumable that is a cleaning fluid consumable.

31. (Original) The method of claim 26, further comprising the step of coupling a third transponder including a third memory coupled to a third consumable, the third memory having data stored therein indicative of type of consumable.

32. (Original) The method of claim 31, wherein the step of providing a first transponder comprises the step of providing a first transponder including a first memory coupled to a first consumable that is a receiver media consumable, wherein the step of providing a second transponder comprises the step of providing a second transponder including a second memory coupled to a second consumable that is a print head consumable and wherein the step of providing a third transponder comprises the step of providing a third transponder including a third memory coupled to a third consumable that is a cleaning fluid consumable.

33. (Original) The method of claim 31, wherein the step of providing a first transponder comprises the step of providing a first transponder including a first memory coupled to a first consumable that is a printhead consumable, wherein the step of providing a second transponder comprises the step of providing a second transponder including a second memory coupled to a second consumable that is an ink consumable and wherein the step of providing a third transponder comprises the step of providing a third transponder including a third memory coupled to a third consumable that is a cleaning fluid consumable.

34. (Original) The method of claim 31, wherein the step of providing a first transponder comprises the step of providing a first transponder including a first memory coupled to a first consumable that is a printhead consumable, wherein the step of providing a second transponder comprises the step

of providing a second transponder including a second memory coupled to a second consumable that is an ink consumable and wherein the step of providing a third transponder comprises the step of providing a third transponder including a third memory coupled to a third consumable that is a receiver media consumable.

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 31, further comprising the step of providing a fourth transponder including a fourth memory coupled to a fourth consumable, the fourth memory having data stored therein indicative of type of consumable.

36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the step of providing a first transponder comprises the step of providing a first transponder including a first memory coupled to a first consumable that is a printhead consumable, wherein the step of providing a second transponder comprises the step of providing a second transponder including a second memory coupled to a second consumable that is an ink consumable, wherein the step of providing a third transponder comprises the step of providing a third transponder including a third memory coupled to a third consumable that is a receiver media consumable and wherein the step of providing a fourth transponder comprises the step of providing a fourth transponder including a fourth memory coupled to a fourth consumable that is a cleaning fluid consumable.

37. (Currently amended) The method of ~~claim 19~~ claim 53, and wherein the transponder receives energy from the first electromagnetic field as the only energy for powering the transponder.

38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein a device associated with the consumable has a sensing mechanism, and the sensing mechanism accurately indicates the amount of consumable used or remaining and this amount is stored in the memory.

39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 37, and wherein the transceiver communicates with the transponder without making touching contact with the transponder.

40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 37 and wherein the memory is a non-volatile semiconductor memory that is integrally contained in the transponder.

41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 37, and wherein the transceiver senses the second electromagnetic field and extracts the data content for subsequent processing in operating the printer.

42. (Previously presented) The method of claim 37, and wherein the transceiver addresses the transponder to write data to the memory associated with the consumable and wherein the data is indicative of usage of the consumable.

43. (Currently amended) An ink container including an ink consumable for use in a printer and the container including a transponder and memory specially adapted for use in the method of ~~claim 19~~ claim 53 and wherein the memory is coupled to the transponder and has data stored therein and uniquely associated with a consumable used in the printer, the transponder being adapted to receive energy from the first electromagnetic field that is generated by the transceiver and the energy comprising the only energy for powering the transponder and the code indicating a read or write command for the memory, the energy being usable in accordance with a read code to generate a signal representing data stored in the memory about the consumable for sensing by the transceiver and for a write code to write information into the memory providing an update of the amount of consumable used or remaining, and the memory storing an update of the consumable used from or remaining in the container.

44. (Original) The method of claim 37, and wherein in response to the information carried by the second electromagnetic field a control logic in the printer determines the type of consumable that is loaded in the printer.

45. (Original) The method of claim 44, and wherein the control logic determines manufacturing date and batch number from the information carried by the second electromagnetic field.

46. (Original) The method of claim 37, and wherein the memory stores calibration data relative to the consumable.

47. (Original) The method of claim 37, and wherein the memory stores sensitometric data relative to the consumable.

48. (Original) The method of claim 37, and wherein a determination is made as to whether or not a print job is compatible with the consumable, and if the print job is not compatible with the consumable print operation is disabled.

49. (Currently amended) ~~The method of claim 37, and~~ In a printer which operates to selectively deposit ink onto a receiver to form an image on the receiver, a method for sensing data uniquely associated with an ink consumable loaded into the printer, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) operating a transceiver to transmit a first electromagnetic field, the first electromagnetic field including a code providing a command to read or write data; and

(b) providing a transponder associated with the ink consumable, the transponder receiving the first electromagnetic field and generating a second electromagnetic field in response to the code in the first electromagnetic field providing a command to read data from a memory, the second electromagnetic field carrying information relative to data stored in the memory, the memory being coupled to the transponder and having the data stored therein and uniquely associated with the ink consumable, and the transponder in response to a code providing a command to write data provides a signal to the memory to apply information from the first electromagnetic field into the memory wherein the transponder receives energy from the first electromagnetic field as the only energy for powering the transponder and wherein the consumable is a container for storing a waste material and the memory provides information relative to identification of the material as an aid to environmentally acceptable disposal of the waste material.

50. (Previously presented) In a printer which operates to selectively deposit a color marking material onto a receiver to form an image on the receiver, a method for sensing data uniquely associated with a waste material containing container loaded into the printer, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) operating a transceiver to transmit a first electromagnetic field, the first electromagnetic field including a code providing a command to read or write data; and

(b) providing a transponder associated with the container, the transponder including a memory, the transponder receiving the first electromagnetic field and generating a second electromagnetic field in response to the code in the first electromagnetic field that provides a command to read data from the memory, the second electromagnetic field carrying information relative to data stored in the memory, the memory being coupled to the transponder and having the data stored therein and uniquely associated with the waste material in the container, and the transponder in response to a code providing a command to write data provides a signal to the memory to apply information from the first electromagnetic field into the memory.

51. (Previously presented) The printer of claim 50, and wherein the first electromagnetic field includes data regarding a current level of waste material in the container and the current level of waste material in the container is written into the memory.

52. (Currently amended) The method of ~~claim 19~~ claim 53, and wherein the first electromagnetic field includes data regarding a current level of ink consumable and the data regarding current level of ink consumable is written into the memory.

53. (Currently amended) ~~The method of claim 19~~ In a printer which operates to selectively deposit ink onto a receiver to form an image on the receiver, a method for sensing data uniquely associated with an ink consumable loaded into the printer, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) operating a transceiver to transmit a first electromagnetic field, the first electromagnetic field including a code providing a command to read or write data; and

(b) providing a transponder associated with the ink consumable, the transponder receiving the first electromagnetic field and generating a second electromagnetic field in response to the code in the first electromagnetic field providing a command to read data from a memory, the second electromagnetic field carrying information relative to data stored in the memory, the memory being coupled to the transponder and having the data stored therein and uniquely associated with the ink consumable, and the transponder in response to a code providing a command to write data provides a signal to the memory to apply information from the first electromagnetic field into the memory, and wherein the transceiver is blocked from overwriting of certain stored data in the memory.

54. (Previously presented) A printer of the type which selectively deposits color marking material onto a receiver sheet to form an image on the receiver sheet, the printer being adapted to sense data uniquely associated with a receiver sheet consumable loaded into the printer, the printer comprising:

(a) a transceiver for transmitting a first electromagnetic field and for sensing a second and electromagnetic field, the first electromagnetic field containing data for writing into a memory associated with the receiver sheet consumable;

(b) a transponder coupled to a sheet-like member that is part of a stack of discrete receiver sheets loaded in the printer, the discrete receiver sheets comprising the consumable, said transponder adapted to receive the first electromagnetic field and generate the second electromagnetic field in response to the first electromagnetic field received thereby, the transponder adapted to receive the energy from the first electromagnetic field that is generated by the transceiver and the energy comprising the only energy for powering the transponder and the transponder being adapted to read data from the memory; and

(c) the memory associated with the receiver sheet consumable, the memory being coupled to said transponder, said memory having data stored therein uniquely associated with the receiver sheet consumable, whereby the second electromagnetic field carries the data stored in said memory while the second electromagnetic field is generated, the second electromagnetic field being characteristic of the data stored in said memory.